

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7505**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 552

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 14, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Satellite Offices.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lanane

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Penalty Provision-* The bill requires a county election board (CEB) to establish one satellite office in a county for each 35,000 registered voters in the county during a year in which a general election is held. The bill limits the number of required satellite offices in each county to five. The bill provides that the CEB may adopt a resolution to establish the hours of the satellite offices and other provisions the board considers useful in operating the satellite offices. The bill provides that if the CEB does not adopt a resolution, the satellite offices must be open during the same hours that the circuit court clerk's office is open for casting absentee ballots.

*Absentee Ballot Procedure-* The bill requires the procedure for casting an absentee ballot at a satellite office to be substantially the same as the procedure for casting an absentee ballot in the office of the circuit court clerk.

*Reimbursement for Satellite Offices-* The bill provides for the state to reimburse a county's actual direct costs in the operation of the required satellite offices. The bill appropriates money from the state General Fund to pay for reimbursement of the county costs. The bill makes technical changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Reimbursement for Satellite Offices-* The state General Fund is to reimburse counties for the actual direct costs of operation of up to five satellite offices, as specified in the bill. The impact to the General Fund would depend on the number of staff assigned to the satellite office(s), other costs such as facility rental, utilities, and the length of time the offices are open to determine a final reimbursement amount. The impact could be significant.

Based on registered voter data from the most recent general election, if the bill were in effect today, 28 counties would be required to have 63 satellite offices established during the election. For 63 locations, the estimated cost could range from \$446,000 to \$865,000 per election. The estimate only includes salary and ballot printing costs (if necessary) and does not include other miscellaneous costs such as facility rental. If significant, facility rental costs would increase the above estimate.

*Background-* Under current law, a satellite office may be open for a maximum of 29 days with the latest closing of noon on the day before election day. The cost estimate above is based, for Marion County, on Marion County's cost for their satellite facilities in the 2008 election; for the next 3 largest counties, on Marion County's satellite office staffing levels per registered voter; and for the other 24 counties, on five staff per location. The satellite offices are assumed to be open on average from 10 to 20 days, and worker payments are assumed to be \$90 per person per day. Staffing requirements, days to be open, and personnel payments are not specified in the bill, so actual expenditures may be more or less than the above estimate.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** CEB, Circuit Court Clerk..

**Information Sources:** Marion County Election Board.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.